

Issue No. 22 FALL 2019

# DEVOTION TO COUNTRY IS ONE OF THE RITE'S CORE VALUES.



2019 Annual Organizational Dinner



#### LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS From HAVEN, AND WATERBURY







Lafayette Consistory News is the official publication of the Valley of Bridgeport and Lafayette Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA © The Board of Trustees of the Valley of Bridgeport

#### **ALLEGIANCE**

The Bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Bridgeport, State of Connecticut, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts.

ILL.. DAVID A. GLATTLY, 33º Sovereign Grand Commander ILL.: BRUCE T. WORK, 33º **Deputy for Connecticut** ILL.: KEVIN J. HECHT, 33º **Active for Connecticut** ILL.. A. NORMAN JOHNSON, 33º **Active Emeritus for Connecticut** ILL.. RICHARD V. TRAVIS. 33º **Active Emeritus for Connecticut** ILL.. JAMES R. SPENCER Jr., MSA, 33º **Active Emeritus for Connecticut** ILL.. DAVID L. SHARKIS, 33º **Active Emeritus for Connecticut** ILL.: GAIL N. SMITH, 33º Active Emeritus for Connecticut

Attest: ILL. · JACK J. S. FARKAS, MSA, 33°
Secretary for the Valley of Bridgeport
THOMAS E. BECK, MSA, 32°
Assoc. Secretary for the Valley of Bridgeport
GARY D. SHEPARD, MSA, 32°
Asst. Secretary for the Valley of Bridgeport

#### Lafayette Consistory

Ill. - Joseph B. Cyr, MSA, 33° - Commander-in-Chief
Ill. - Paul L. Chello, 33° - 1st Lt. Commander
Robert J. Furce, MSA, 32° - 2nd Lt. Commander
Harold A. Elwell, 32° - Orator
Daniel Galloza, MSA, 32° - Chancellor
Ill. - Steven P. Schreck, MSA, 33° - Master of Ceremonies
Erik P. Meyer, MSA, 32° - Engineer & Seneschal
Willis E. Copeland Jr., MSA, 32° - Organist



Members of the Consistory visited the DeWint House, a Masonic Historic Site, last February in Tappan, NY for a recreation of the Revolutionary Era Trial of Major John Andre for Treason.

See: http://dewinthouse.com/history

#### **Dewitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection**

David H. Cooper, 32° - Thrice Potent Master Victor D. Ojeda, 32° - Deputy Master Raymond J. Savoy, 32° - Junior Warden Jeff E. Feinson, 32° - Orator Tyreke M. T. Bird, 32° - Master of Ceremonies Stephen S. Elliott, 32° - Captain of the Guard Gary Ecsedi, 32° - Master of Entrances

#### Washington Council Princes of Jerusalem

Christopher Jennings, 32° - Sovereign Prince
Jack J. Baril Jr., 32° - High Priest
Barry S. Ronner, 32° - Senior Warden
David Rupar, 32° - Junior Warden
Benito Vazquez, MSA, 32° - Orator
Rovshan Mammadov, 32° - Master of Ceremonies
Jerry Gruenbaum, 32° - Captain of the Guard
Jonathan G. DeBaun, 32° - Master of Entrances

#### Pequonnock Chapter Rose Croix

John A. Amarilios, MSA, 32° - Most Wise Master Michael J. Kaczynski, 32° - Senior Warden Silas Mante, 32° - Junior Warden David H. Cooper 32° - Orator David J. Millington, 32° - Master of Ceremonies Raymond J. Savoy, 32° - Captain of the Guard

#### Valley Officers for all Bodies

Ill.: Edward R. Ham, 33° - Treasurer
Ill.: Jack J.S. Farkas, MSA, 33° - Secretary
Thomas E. Beck, MSA, 32° - Associate Secretary
Gary D. Shepard, MSA, 32° - Assistant Secretary

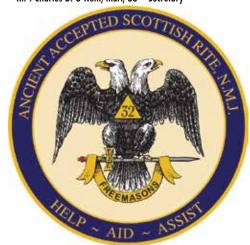
David B. Urban, MSA, 33° - Hospitaler
Harvey J. Hartin, MSA, 32° - Tyler
Ill.: Raymond J. Dolyak, MSA, 33° Manager, Stage & Properties
John A. Amarilios, MSA, 32° - Membership Chairman
Gary D. Shepard, MSA, 32° - Family Life Chairman
John A. Amarilios, MSA, 32° - Newsletter Editor

#### Valley of New Haven

III. · . Randy S. Stevens, 33° - Thrice Potent Master Scott B. Bumps, 32° - Sovereign Prince III. · . Bradley K. Cooney, 33° - Most Wise Master III. · . Richard C. Memmott, Sr., 33° - Treasurer III. · . Charles D. O'Neill, MSA, 33° Secretary

#### Valley of Waterbury

Marty Macary, 32° - Thrice Potent Master Raymond J. Savoy, 32° - Sovereign Prince Manuel Tirado, III - Most Wise Master III.·. Charles A. McCollum, MSA, 33° - Treasurer III.·. Charles D. O'Neill, MSA, 33° - Secretary



### Notables of Valley of Bridgeport Lafayette Consistory

A series of articles reviewing the accomplishments of the Valley's members in various facets of life in bygone eras ~ Claudia Farkas

#### Captains of Industry: The Founders, Part 2

In this third article in the series about notable Masons who were part of the Valley of Bridgeport Lafayette Consistory, we meet more of the men who were Captains of Industry in the Bridgeport, New Haven and Waterbury areas. Resourceful entrepreneurs, they were founders of successful companies.

Their stories are based on information found in their archived petitions, membership cards and obituaries.

Clarence Elwood Bilton (1874-1945), established Standard Manufacturing Company in Bridgeport in 1905, which manufactured a variety of products from telephones to electrical supplies to machine tools. His company merged with Parsons Foundry and became Bilton Machine Tool Company. By 1928 the business was bought out by Newman Marsilius, a Norwegian immigrant who reorganized and renamed the merged company Producto Machine Company, which operated as a family business led by Newman's sons and Valley of Bridgeport members Newman Marsilius. Jr. and Philip Marsilius. Clarence Bilton became a 32nd Degree Mason in Lafayette Consistory in 1913. Newman Marsilius and his brother Philip became 32nd Degree Masons in Lafayette Consistory in the early 1950's.

**Waldo Calvin Bryant** (1863-1930), founded Bryant Electric Company in Bridgeport in 1888. He invented and patented several



switch and electrical component designs and led the industry to accept standardized wiring devices. For a time, Bryant Electric was Bridgeport's

largest employer. Bryant became a Westinghouse subsidiary in 1901. The parent company shut down the Bryant plant in 1988, transferred most of the work to out of state plants and sold off its remaining interests to Hubbell Inc in 1991. Bryant was a member of the Valley of Bridgeport and became a 32nd Degree Mason in 1903.

**Gerhard F. Drouve** (1851-1919), born in Germany, founded the G.F. Drouve Co Inc in Bridgeport in 1906. The company



manufactured skylights and window operating devices. Gerhard Drouve held several patents for his inventions related to window devices. He was a member of the

Valley of Bridgeport and received the 32nd Degree in Lafayette Consistory in 1912.

**John (Jack) Edward Echlin** (1897-1988) and his brother Earl started Echlin and Echlin in San Francisco in 1924, manufacturing auto replacement parts. The company moved to New Haven in 1939

and continued to expand through acquisitions. Jack Echlin remained as head of the company until 1969. NAPA and Echlin merged, and the entity still operates as an automotive aftermarket business of Standard Motor Products. Jack Echlin became a Master Mason in California, was a member of the Valley of New Haven and received the 32nd Degree in Lafayette Consistory in 1952.

Anker S. Lyhne (1865-1930) was a Danish immigrant who, along with Herman K. Beach, established Bridgeport Metal Goods Manufacturing Company in 1909. The company specialized in the manufacture of flashlights and cosmetic cases, and turned out munitions parts for the military during both World Wars. The company was acquired by Pittsburgh-based Hipwell Manufacturing, which moved all the Bridgeport operations to Pittsburg in 2001 and



closed the factory. **Herman Kissam Beach** (1882-1941) became President of the company after Mr. Lyhne's death. Herman K. Beach was Lafayette Consistory's 10th Commander-In-Chief and a 33rd Degree Mason. Anker Lyhne was active in Hamilton Commandery and Royal Arch Masonry and became a 32nd Degree Mason in Lafayette Consistory in 1915.

**Thomas Porter Taylor** (1857-1913) organized the Thomas P. Taylor Company in Bridgeport in 1893. Thomas was a Pennsylvania native who moved to Bridgeport and worked in Warner Brothers Corset Factory in the 1870's. While there, he patented a design



for a baseball and headed a Warner's division that was set up for its manufacture. He left Warner's to set up his own business manufacturing

men's and ladies undergarment specialties. He designed and patented The Taylor Folding Bustle and continued to lead the company until his death. Taylor was a member of the Valley of Bridgeport and Hamilton Commandery. He received the 32nd Degree in Lafayette Consistory in 1895. He was also elected Mayor of Bridgeport in 1897.

This "Notables" page will continue to feature successful members of the Consistory in different fields over the years.

### FELLOWSHIP AND FAMILY LIFE ACTIVITIES OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2019

Events are open to Scottish Rite and their families, candidates or prospective members. For those brothers who have not started their Scottish Rite journeys yet, you can fill out the petition form online and confirm your candidate status before contacting the office for reservations at https://scottishritenmj.org/membership-application, or come to the office to complete your application in person.

#### OCTOBER 2019

October 6 ~ Connecticut Children's Dyslexia Center Walk for Awareness Fund raiser. Waterbury at Noon.

October 13 ~ Eric Meyer's "An Evening of Kirtan Yoga." Program featuring Yoga instruction and music. Starts at 7 p.m. at the Theatre in Stratford. Admission at the door is \$25 per person. See more details on page 9 in this issue of the Lafayette Consistory News.

October 26 ~ Narrated round-trip on the Essex Steam Train and Riverboat ride into the heart of the unspoiled Connecticut River Valley. Prior reservations with payment mandatory. Bus leaves Stratford at 10 a.m. Expected to return by 5 p.m.

#### **NOVEMBER 2019**

November 16 ~ Dinner and show at Westchester Broadway Theatre - "An American in Paris." Elmsford, NY; \$60/person. Must be registered and paid by Nov. 6. Bus leaves Stratford at 4 p.m. with a stop at Darien at 4:30 p.m.

November 28 ~ 18th Annual Turkey Trot. (THANKSGIVING DAY MORNING). Begins at 8 a.m. Dave Urban's Annual Fund raiser for Local Charities and the Connecticut Children's Dyslexia Centers.

#### **DECEMBER 2019**

<u>Poecember 7</u> ~ Annual Trip to Boston Pops Holiday Concert - Symphony Hall, Boston, MA. Faneuil Hall market place after the concert. Dinner and shopping on your own. \$60/person. Bus leaves Stratford at 11 a.m. Must be registered and paid by Nov. 29.

December 8 ~ Christmas, Holiday Party & Silent Auction (Sunday) at The WoodWinds Special Events Venue, Branford, CT at 3 p.m. \$40/person. Items needed for Silent Auction. Call Consistory Office at 203-375-0064 with donations.

### SCOTCH AND CIGAR NIGHT AUGUST 16, 2019











### 6тн ANNUAL **CLAMBAKE PICNIC**











**AUGUST 3, 2019** 









BOOTHE PARK, STRATFORD, CT











































## ORGANIZATIONAL DINNER

VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT AND LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY

**AUGUST 8, 2019** 



















## THE VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT AND ITS FOURTH BODY, LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY ~ co-authors: Jack J.S. Farkas MSA, 33°, and Claudia Farkas

Lafayette Consistory was chartered in the Valley of Bridgeport on June 1, 1858, along with Washington Council Princes of Jerusalem and Pequonnock Chapter of Rose Croix. DeWitt Clinton Lodge of Perfection had been organized May 11, 1858. Charter members were Marcus C. Allen, Warde S. Beebe, John C. Blackman, Cyrus W. Burton, John W. Clark, William R. Higby, Thomas Hutchins, William Lum, George P. Sanborn, David W. Thompson and Charles W. Webb. Edward A. Atwood, the nephew of Henry C. Atwood, was the first Commander-In-Chief. The first Secretary, John W. Clark, was killed in the Civil War.

Since the Valley of Bridgeport's jurisdiction extended beyond the city limits, it became a focal point for Scottish Rite Masons from all over Fairfield County. Then, thanks to a post-Civil War wave of interest in Masonry, by 1868 the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Bridgeport began to grow and to extend its influence

throughout Southwestern Connecticut. Membership included industrialists and manufacturers from Fairfield and New Haven counties who had businesses in the industrial hub of Bridgeport.

Within the jurisdiction of Lafayette Consistory, some members of the Rite from the Valley of Bridgeport established the Valley of New Haven in 1875. In 1897 some members of both Valleys formed the Valley of Waterbury, all keeping their ties with Bridgeport as their Consistory. This also allowed them to keep their Bridgeport area business connections.

In New Haven, in September of 1873, the Supreme Council was petitioned by ten men asking for a dispensation to open a Lodge of Perfection to be known as the E. G. Storer Lodge of Perfection. They received their charter dated August 19, 1874, followed the next year by charters for Elm City Council Princes of Jerusalem and New Haven Chapter Rose Croix, all in New Haven.

In September 1897, charters for Doric Lodge of Perfection, Ionic Council Princes of Jerusalem and Corinthian Chapter of Rose Croix, located in the Valley of Waterbury, were received.

Membership in the new Valleys was so robust that beginning in 1890, "New Haven Day" was a feature of the program of the Consistory. From 1898 on, "New Haven and Waterbury Day" were designated to accommodate large classes predominantly from those cities.

Historically, all three Valleys have ties to Bridgeport, through their very formation as well as in Lafayette Consistory. This is evidenced today as membership cards list both the home valleys of New Haven and Waterbury, as well as their Consistory Valley of Bridgeport.

#### SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND GAMES



**AUGUST 24, 2019** 



OLD WESTBURY, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

### CHILDREN'S DYSLEXIA CENTERS UPDATE

At the time of writing the Grand Opening of the Hartford Satellite is still over a week away, however enthusiasm continues to build after the successful implementation of the Bridgeport Satellite earlier this year. With both the Waterbury and Bridgeport locations up and running, and the anticipated opening of the Hartford Satellite, we can proudly say that there never have been more opportunities in our state for families to address the needs of their children with dyslexia

at no cost to them. The Valleys, which support the schools, have been busy raising funds with a number of competitive outdoor events. On July 27, 2019 the Valley of Hartford sponsored their well-attended annual 5k Road Race. This will be followed by the Waterbury Walk on Sunday, October 6, and the Bridgeport Turkey Trot on November 28, which is Thanksgiving morning.







## An Evening of Kirtan Yoga

On Sunday, October 13, Erik P. Meyer, MSA, 32° will be hosting a program of Kirtan Yoga Music at the Leo H. Lohrman, II, Scottish Rite Theatre, 2422 Main Street in Stratford, CT. The show will get underway at 7:00 PM sharp. Net proceeds from this event will be donated to the Children's Dyslexia Centers of Connecticut.

The evening's program will consist of three events:

- An instructional session in Yogic Breathing with Linda Fiske, a Level 4 Naam Yoga Adent
- A screening of the internationally acclaimed documentary movie "Mantra: Sounds into Silence," and
- A LIVE performance by Sita's Light, a Kirtan Band of local renown, led by Miriam Zernis.



By way of introduction to the evening's events, Brother Meyer will answer the burning question that has been on everyone's mind of late. That is, "What is the connection between Freemasonry and the burgeoning Yoga Movement that has swept our nation, and the world, over the last 120 years?"



Linda Fiske, our instructor for the evening, has been teaching Kundalini Yoga and Naam Yoga Therapies for ten years. Prior to her career in Yoga she worked as Director of the Archives

for the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation and as a Fine Arts Representative for Peter Lindbergh, the creator of "Super-Model" photography. Linda will teach us how to breathe better than we ever have before --and we all like to breathe --- RIGHT?



Miriam Sita Zernis has led Kirtan events in CT, NY, CA, Canada, and Europe since 2007. Her repertoire is original and her style is easy, warm and engaging. She will be joined by an array of guest musicians, who all will bring their

hearts to bear on the Yoga of Devotion. Together, they invoke the brilliant light of pure consciousness in all who come to be in sacred space with them. Last year, Miriam hosted a sellout screening of the Mantra documentary, with LIVE Kirtan performance, at the Lowes 16 Theatre in Danbury. For 22 years prior to her career in music, Miriam was a senior editor and news writer at ABC News.

For those unfamiliar with this style of Music, Kirtan is an ancient form of calland-response devotional singing similar to Delta Blues, but featuring traditional Indian instruments instead of guitar, bass and drums.

We hope you will join us to experience the transformative power of Yoga. All are welcome — whether you are new to and curious about Kirtan or a seasoned practitioner of devotional chant. Chant sheets (lyrics) will be provided and the audience is encouraged to sing along with all the power of their collective soul.

Ticket prices up until the day of the event are: • General Admission - \$25 • Reserved Front Row Seating - \$30. Tickets purchased on the day of the event will be \$5 more respectively. Ticket purchases may be made by emailing <a href="mailto:erik12omeee@gmail.com">erik12omeee@gmail.com</a>. Seating is limited to 250 persons, so reserve your place early. People with ambulatory disabilities will be graciously accommodated.



CONTACT

Mike Jachimczyk at 203-979-5011 or email mcjesq@icloud.com or the Consistory at 203-375-0064 or email Office@LafayetteConsistory.com

\$15.00 per person for: two cigars and one drink. Additional available.

DIRECTIONS FROM BRIDGEPORT

I-95 to Exit 9 – Glenbrook Turn right at E. Main Street Quick right on to Courtland Avenue Follow Courtland Avenue to the end Turn right on to Glenbrook Road Turn left on to Research Drive Stamford Cigar Bar is on left.

DIRECTIONS FROM GREENWICH 1-95 to Exit 9 – Glenbrook

Turn left on to Seaside Avenue
Turn left on to E. Main Street
Turn right on to Courtland Avenue
Follow Courtland Avenue to the end
Turn right on to Glenbrook Road
Turn left on to Research Drive
Stamford Cigar Bar is on left.

#### Hospitaler's Corner

Your gifts to the Hospitaler Fund assist David in helping out local Brothers who are members of the Consistory. Unfortunately, there never has been a greater need. If you have experienced good fortune in the past year, why not pass a portion of it forward to help a Brother in need. Many are struggling with agerelated debilities, as well as misfortunes of every kind.

Please make your contribution payable to Lafayette
Consistory and mail to
David B. Urban, Hospitaler
P.O. Box 309, Stratford CT
06615

## VALLEY OF BRIDGEPORT FALL 2019 DEGREE SCHEDULE

New candidates must register <u>one hour</u> before Degree.

4th Degree video is available as needed.

<b>Date</b>	<u>Degrees</u>
10/07	5th Degree Live and 24th Degree Video at 7:30 p.m., Dinner 6 p.m.
10/21	27th Degree Live and 12th Degree Video at 7:30p.m., Dinner 6 p.m.
11/18	7th Degree Live and 20th Degree Video at 7:30:p.m., Dinner 6 p.m.
12/02	19th Degree Live at 6:30 p.m., Dinner 4:30 p.m.
12/02	32nd Degree Live at 7:30 p.m., Dinner 4:30 p.m.

Dinners before Monday Bridgeport Degrees are at 6 p.m. Degrees start at 7:30 p.m. Saturday Degrees are at 11 a.m., followed by lunch in the Shrine building.

\$10/Brother. RSVP Required for dinner or lunch. Please email Office@LafayetteConsistory.com or call 203-375-0064.

# REVIEW OF BLUE LODGE SYMBOLISM ~ ENTERED APPRENTICE BASICS PART 2

#### Discalceation and Circumambulation John A. Amarilios, MSA, 32°

The Rite of Discalceation, which takes place in the preparation room, is rarely given the proper gravitas in the hustle of getting the Candidate properly dressed for his entry into the Lodge Room. The Rite which is the ceremonial removal of the shoes, originates in our Judeo - Christian Old Testament, see: Exodus 3:5, where God tells Moses "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground". The Rite also plays a part in other cultures' rituals and can be found in Druidic and Pythagorean ceremonials. It is the act of removing one's shoes when approaching symbolically sacred ground. The removal of the street shoes symbolizes a Candidate's profound respect for Deity. It reinforces within him the importance for cleanliness as shoes shield us from the muck and grime of the profane world. Shoes furthermore protect us from injury when we walk the godless streets strewn with abandoned sharp objects of glass, stones and metal. The Candidate removes this protection because he knows he will soon enter a world in which protection from such hazards is unnecessary. The Lodge is a protective environment, where faith to Deity can be expressed in a myriad of manners, and where the Candidate – as well as his Brothers are to be found. The term "Neither Barefoot nor Shod" thus is given real meaning and explains this very profound act - which is unfortunately too often relegated to an unheralded process of getting the Candidate dressed and having the questions propounded by the stewards. The removal of the one shoe is also symbolic and is akin to a vow of sincerity in the undertakings that the Candidate is about to make. The removal of the shoe is an act much like signing a contract in the presence of an entity which acknowledges your intent. This

Rite represents the assent and understanding of the Candidate that he is about to be reborn in a spiritual and mental manner by entering a new world of Brotherhood, which is unlike anything he has traversed so far in the profane world.

Once the Candidate has entered the Lodge Room and has paid his respects to Deity and engaged in prayer, he begins the Circumambulation. Doing so in a blind state he must rely on his guide. The term Circumambulation means "walking around." This ritual dates back again to antiquity and is still to be found in Hindu and Buddhist devotional practice, as well as Orthodox Christian ceremonies on select holy days. This also can be experienced in the ritual of many other faiths. The Circumambulation serves to link all Masons to the spiritual ceremonies of today and yesteryear by joining the Lodge members with the egregore of the Lodge during this ceremony. Additionally, it symbolizes the respect and deference which we owe to Deity, and provides us with an opportunity to internalize and refortify our resolution to overcome all the troubles and obstructions which we encounter in our daily travels through our own personal lives. During this ritual we encounter three stations – three guards if you will, and are asked if we are proceeding under our own free will. These three guards are symbolic of the desire within the Candidate to purify his mind, his deeds and his actions. As the Candidate passes through each station, escorted by a Brother in whom he has placed his trust, he should be mentally fortifying his internal resolution to shed all unworthy thoughts and desires and to attain a pure and unblemished conscience.



#### **BROTHERS REMEMBER**

Whether traveling from in or out of the state it is easy to get to the Stratford Leo H. Lohrman, II, Scottish Rite Theatre via Metro North. Our Theatre is located right next door to the Stratford Train Station. Avoid I-95 traffic and parking concerns. Consult the Metro North Train Schedule at: http://Www.mta.info/schedules.

#### LAFAYETTE CONSISTORY NEWS

From the Valleys of Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury

Published quarterly and inserted in the *Connecticut Freemasons* newspaper.

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